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## Vision

While current budgeting software is feature-rich and incredibly powerful, it is too complicated to effectively manage the average college student's budget. College students with little or fluid income, and few categories of spending, are treated as edge cases in existing software. They would be the primary users of Budding Budget.

For example, these are three emails I received from Mint.com within an hour of registering -

<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	☐	Mint.com	Inbox	Exceeded budget for Movies & DVDs - wwws.mi	12/5/15
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	☐	Mint.com	Inbox	Exceeded budget for Restaurants - wwws.mint.c	12/5/15
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	☐	Mint.com	Inbox	Exceeded budget for Fast Food - wwws.mint.co	12/5/15

It's already making the assumptions that I consider "Fast Food" and "Restaurants" to be different, and that my food budget and my movies budgets aren't really the same budget. In other words, Mint, YNAB, and other tools like them are treating me like a real adult, when I'm only pretending to be a real adult - and that has scared me away from budgeting software.

There is a market and a need for a budgeting system for college students and others with uncomplicated living situations that serves to simplify their lives instead of complicating them. We need a tool that pops a notification on our phone every morning saying we have \$22 dollars to spend on impulse buys and/or food, and asks us every night how much we actually spent. Budding Budget is that tool.

## Software Architecture

Budding Budget will be split between a backend database storing the data, and a frontend app to access it.

We see two options for the backend - either have it be part of the application, stored locally on the phone, or stored on the cloud so your budget data can be accessible on multiple devices. While cloud storage would be very useful, it would also necessitate extra security and encryption, as well as a good deal more infrastructure.

The frontend will allow the user to add resources and track expenditures. It will also need to be able to interact with Android's notification systems to notify users of their budget in the morning, and to remind them to track their spending at night. Some form of algorithm would be necessary to calculate the budget for each user.



Budding Budget is interesting because instead of trying to create the most fully-featured piece of software we can, we need to look at pre-existing feature-rich tools and cull away functionality until the tool appeals to a new demographic without making it useless.

We are planning to develop for Android, potentially using Android Studio as a development platform, but there aren't any requirements we foresee for this project that wouldn't allow us to move to a different platform if necessary.

### Challenges and Risks

Budgeting software is the way it is for a reason - it works. If you look online, you'll see nothing but praise for Mint.com and YNAB, and it's well deserved. The most difficult challenge is making our product distinct from current offerings to reach this new audience without breaking the fundamentals that have made these other tools so successful.

We need to have enough functionality to be better than other budgeting software for college student use, without having enough to scare our target audience away. We will tackle this problem by first examining existing budgeting software to find the instances where the software is lacking so we know what we need to have.